

DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA, CHAIRMAN
CURT WELDON, PENNSYLVANIA
JOEL HEFLEY, COLORADO
JIM SAXTON, NEW JERSEY
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
TERRY EVERETT, ALABAMA
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, CALIFORNIA
MAC THORNBERRY, TEXAS
JOHN N. HOSTETTLER, INDIANA
WALTER B. JONES, NORTH CAROLINA
JIM RYUN, KANSAS
JIM GIBBONS, NEVADA
ROBIN HAYES, NORTH CAROLINA
KEN CALVERT, CALIFORNIA
ROB SIMMONS, CONNECTICUT
JO ANN DAVIS, VIRGINIA
W. TODD AKIN, MISSOURI
J. RANDY FORBES, VIRGINIA
JEFF MILLER, FLORIDA
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
FRANK A. LOBIONDO, NEW JERSEY
JEB BRADLEY, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MICHAEL TURNER, OHIO
JOHN KLINE, MINNESOTA
CANDICE S. MILLER, MICHIGAN
MIKE ROGERS, ALABAMA
TRENT FRANKS, ARIZONA
BILL SHUSTER, PENNSYLVANIA
THELMA DRAKE, VIRGINIA
JOE SCHWARZ, MICHIGAN
CATHY McMORRIS, WASHINGTON
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS
GEOFF DAVIS, KENTUCKY

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

August 4, 2006

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI
JOHN SPRATT, SOUTH CAROLINA
SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, TEXAS
LANE EVANS, ILLINOIS
GENE TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI
NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HAWAII
MARTY MEEHAN, MASSACHUSETTS
SILVESTRE REYES, TEXAS
VIC SNYDER, ARKANSAS
ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON
LORETTA SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
MIKE MCINTYRE, NORTH CAROLINA
ELLEN O. TAUSCHER, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
SUSAN A. DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
JAMES R. LANGEVIN, RHODE ISLAND
STEVE ISRAEL, NEW YORK
RICK LARSEN, WASHINGTON
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
JIM MARSHALL, GEORGIA
KENDRICK B. MEEK, FLORIDA
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GUAM
TIM RYAN, OHIO
MARK E. UDALL, COLORADO
G.K. BUTTERFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA
CYNTHIA MCKINNEY, GEORGIA
DAN BOREN, OKLAHOMA

ROBERT L. SIMMONS, STAFF DIRECTOR

Mr. James C. May
President and Chief Executive Officer
Air Transport Association (ATA) of America, Inc.
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20004-1707

Dear Mr. May:

We write to ask that you work with the members of the Air Transport Association of America to ensure that our military personnel serving in Iraq who have had their tours extended involuntarily are not punished financially.

As you may know, approximately 4000 members of the 172nd Stryker Brigade have recently been informed that their deployment to Iraq would be extended by nearly four months. This announcement was made only days before the unit was scheduled to rotate back to the United States. We have been informed that many members of the unit, anticipating their return, had made travel plans and booked airline tickets so that they could visit families and take vacations. Sadly, these plans will have to be postponed or even cancelled due to the extension of their time in Iraq.

We have been informed that, in many cases, airline companies have chosen to not allow the service members to cancel their reservations and to not provide refunds. Apparently, instead of a refund, credits for travel have been offered. While this is a generous offer, many personnel may not be able to travel within the time period the credits will apply and transfer fees and increases in price in between now and when travel can be undertaken will apply. We ask that you reconsider this position and provide refunds where possible, and where it is desired by the service member.

Those members of the military serving in Iraq are sacrificing on our behalf. When their deployments are extended involuntarily, we should not ask them to sacrifice financially as well. We ask that you take steps to address this situation, and we thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



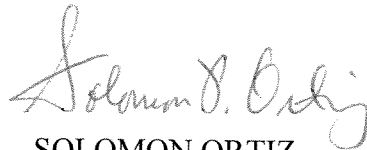
IKE SKELTON
Member of Congress



VIC SNYDER
Member of Congress



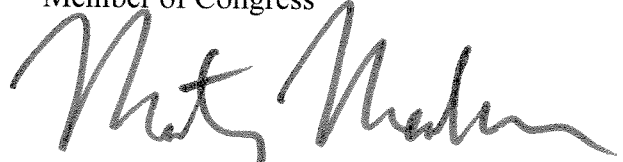
JOHN SPRATT
Member of Congress



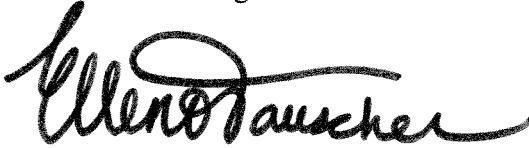
SOLOMON ORTIZ
Member of Congress



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Member of Congress



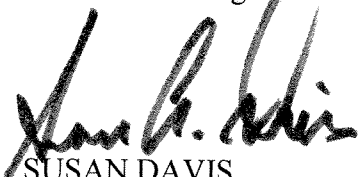
MARTIN MEEHAN
Member of Congress



ELLEN TAUSCHER
Member of Congress



ROBERT ANDREWS
Member of Congress



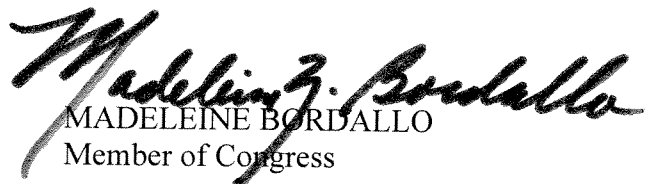
SUSAN DAVIS
Member of Congress



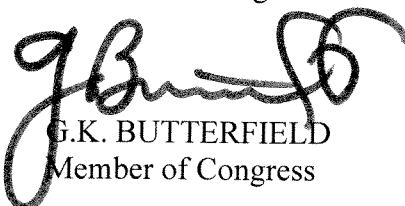
STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress



JIM MARSHALL
Member of Congress



MADELEINE BORDALLO
Member of Congress



G.K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress